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Committee Director:

Efthymis Antonopoulos

efthymis.antonopoulos@gmail.com

Assistant Directors:

Bart Sips

sips.bart@gmail.com

Thaddeus Jahn

T.C.Jahn@lse.ac.uk

ILO Committee

Topic A: Tackling the global youth unemployment crisis

Topic B: Establishing "Green Jobs" in developed and developing economies.

A Message from your Directors:

Dear ILO Delegates,

We would like to warmly welcome you to the International Labour Organization (ILO), a specialized agency of the United Nations with the remit to discuss and analyze the working environment situation in order to promote rights at work, decent work for all, social justice, and dialogue for establishing social peace and prosperity. Moreover, ILO's cooperation with other organizations (EU, etc.) has proven effective in tackling crucial problems. To be part of ILO is thus a great opportunity to participate in a variety of discussions, to have heated debates and to be involved actively in the formation of policy in global scale.

Given the fact that globally the great majority of young people remain jobless, feeling distress and suffering from symptoms of depression due to inactivity, and that our world has to find another path in development through the promotion of a "green economy", the Chairs feel that both topics on the Agenda are of great importance. Bearing in mind all these events we have created an integrated study guide which will be your tools to understanding the topics. Keep in mind that this document will only provide an introduction and you will have to research comprehensively in order to fully understand the underlying issues.

We are really looking forward to meeting you all in November, being sure that the conference will be filled with engaging debates, academic advancement and lively parties! For any questions do not hesitate to contact us via email!

Yours,

Efthymis, Bart, Thaddeus

Topic A: *Tackling the global youth unemployment crisis*

History of the Committee

«Si vis pacem, cole justitiam» (If you desire peace, cultivate justice; written at the founding of the ILO main office in Geneva, Switzerland.)

The International Labour Organization (ILO) is a UN agency, with main objective labour issues, and more particularly guarantee of international labour standards and decent work for all women and men. To be more precise, the ILO stresses its attention to the promotion and realization of fundamental principles and rights at work, to the creation of opportunities to decent employment and income to achieve social protection, and to the establishment of social dialogue among employers, workers and governments.

To meet these challenges, the ILO offers a wide variety of expertise and knowledge about the world of work, focusing on educational and research programmes that advance the technical cooperation and implement an active partnership with constituents to promote human rights, improve working conditions and thus enhance social stability by creating employment opportunities.

Going back to its origins, the ILO was created in 1919 (as a part of the Treaty of Versailles that ended WWI), following the post-World War I euphoria and the idea of a makeable society of justice. The newly established international labour law was considered as the catalyst for social reforms, but the ILO architects reformulated their visions and ideals- social justice and the right to decent work- at the Paris Peace Conference of 1919, indicating the balance between pragmatism and idealism as a result of dialogue and diplomatic compromises aiming at social stability. The ILO Constitution

was drafted by the Labour Commission in 1919 and contained ideas that included security, humanitarian care, economic and political considerations in order to guarantee the peace of the world. These admirable and continuing efforts resulted in the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize (1969) for the enhancement of social peace, pursuing justice in the working environment, and providing technical assistance to developing countries. Moreover, the ILO became the first specialized agency of the UN in 1946.

The ILO structure is based on tripartism and social dialogue. The tripartite structure means that governments, employers and workers (with a ratio 2:1:1) have a representation in the meetings. Consequently, a free and open debate can be opened which shows social dialogue in action. The Organization accomplishes its work through three main bodies:

- The International Labour Conference, which meets annually in Geneva, and discusses international labour standards and policies answering to social questions. The Conference makes decisions about the ILO's general policy.
- The Governing body, which is the executive council of the Organization and meets three times a year. It addresses budgetary and logistic matters. This body is composed by 28 government representatives, 14 workers' representatives, and 14 employers' representatives. Ten out of the overall government seats are held by States of "chief industrial importance": China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Brazil, Germany, India, Italy, and Japan.
- The Office (ILO Secretariat, Research Centre and Publishing House).

With a very detailed agenda on topics like child labour, domestic and migrant workers, globalization, youth unemployment, forced labour, “green jobs”, safety at work, etc. the International Labour Organization sets the standards for social justice. According to Juan Somavia, a former ILO Director-General, “working for social justice is our assessment of the past and our mandate for the future.”

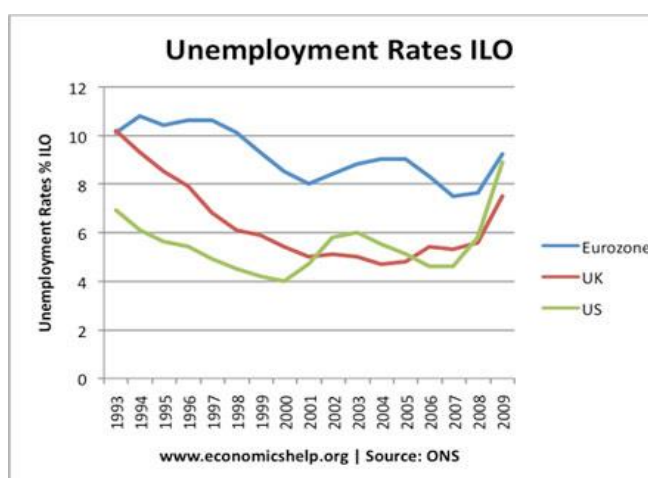
TOPIC HISTORY

One of the major challenges our society needs to face nowadays is that of the high unemployment rates. According to statistics, young people are three times more prone to be unemployed than adults. The ILO has warned of a lost generation of young workers, having to tackle unemployment, inactivity as well as poverty.

Five years after the collapse of Lehman Brothers and the consequent outbreak of the global financial crisis-the most crucial one after 1929-the risk of social unrest is rising as inequality worsens and unemployment-especially for young and very qualified people- continues to climb. Wide uncertainty holds back job creation, while at the same time what we want is productive jobs for the developing world. There are claims that the world's advanced economies will suffer a lost decade of jobs growth, with more people unemployed for longer and more dropping out of the labour market altogether. Global unemployment is expected to approach 208 million in 2015, compared with slightly over 200 million now. The specter of unemployment haunts our everyday lives as middle-income groups are suffering from its long-term scars. In order to guarantee social stability, prosperity, and improvement of standards of living, ILO has to seek for solutions and suggestions to guide young men and women into obtaining jobs that match their skills and aspirations. To

achieve this, the Organization has promoted a programme on youth employment to develop coherent interventions on youth employment by combining macro-economic policies with the labour demand and supply.

We have to confront the precarious work, the payment inequality, and the increased inactivity to save the “scarred “generation of young workers and thus alleviate the pain of youth unemployment; looking for work must become a promising task again.



Graph extracted by the ILO official website.

Types of Unemployment

There are many types of unemployment each one defined by cause and severity and also resulting by the new trends in social structure, the needs of social classes and any international events that affect the global network and its constituents. The most prominent types are the following:

Cyclical unemployment is present when workers lose their jobs as a result of a downturn in aggregate demand.

Structural unemployment is considered a result of a decline in the industrial era because of long term changes in market conditions. For instance, the motor vehicle production is facing a decline in the West, whereas in the Far East

the car industry is flourishing. Thus, *globalization* plays an important role while talking about structural unemployment. In cases when structural unemployment affects local areas of an economy, e.g. farmers in some parts of an African country or car engineers in Yokohama (Japan), is called **regional** unemployment. Furthermore, labour immobility is closely attached to an increase in structural unemployment, as newly established industries (*sunrise industries*) are usually not able to hire people who were ousted by the declining firms.

According to some economists, structural unemployment might be considered as a government failure, because wages cannot adjust effectively and thus workers cannot move quickly from job to job. However, individuals fail to see the bright lining posed by merit goods such as training and re-training in order to improve their skills and be more competitive in the job search.

Classical unemployment occurs when workers refuse to work for less and ask for too high wages.

Seasonal unemployment exists because industries, firms, shops occupy individuals for a temporary period of time, as their work is ephemeral. Such a type is usual in fields like tourism, farming, and construction.

Frictional unemployment is probably the commonest type, and appears when workers lose their jobs and are in a process of finding a new one; that is the reason why it is also called *search* unemployment. For the reduction of high rates of frictionally unemployed people, we can only hope for better information provided and also follow webpages and online sites from international organizations, e.g. ILO, that aim at promoting job opportunities.

Voluntary unemployment is defined as the situation when workers do not desire to work,

since they have high welfare standards or wish to find another type of work that will attach to their skills or perspectives in a better and more efficient way.

Hidden unemployment has to do with people interested in acquiring a job position, but who are not classified as unemployed. For instance, people who have given up looking for a job (discouraged workers) or have lost any motivation for applying for vacant seats are included in that category. Moreover, poverty can be a factor of the high rate in hidden unemployment, since jobless people may avoid applying for jobs because of financial disincentives.

However, our main focus will be to tackle **Youth Unemployment**, a very demanding task that asks for viable and speed solutions. This drawback of our days encompasses challenges that move from the private to the public sphere affecting the stability of the social order. It is unacceptable for young people to suffer from decent work deficits and low-quality jobs, or to move from full-time to part-time employment. We should acknowledge that young workers have the same rights as all other workers and are not pieces to be exploited. The new generation should find its route in order for a better future to be established. Young people are the core of our society and offering them the adequate potential to thrive should be our priority, in order for a “healthier” society with more potential to be built.

DISCUSSION OF THE PROBLEM

These days, young people have to deal with and confront a scarcity of job opportunities, and are at a risk of social exclusion. More than 75 million young people worldwide are out of work, facing huge psychological and sustainability problems. The youth unemployment crisis has been aggravated by the

global financial crisis and calls on governments, workers and employers to create decent and productive jobs. Tackling the fundamental causes, discussing in the global forums, and finding a remedy would be the most efficient and successful key to unlock the door that enters into the world of employment and decent work. Political commitment on the part of governments and officials, long-lasting efforts, innovative ideas and hard work are important to alleviate the crisis and enhance the situation, establishing a decent future for our generation.



Youth Unemployment: The case of the European Union

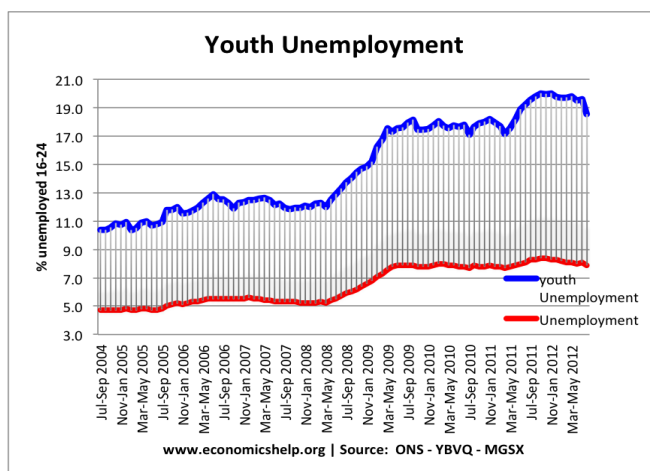
In May 2013 unemployment across the 17 countries of the European Union, which are members of the Eurozone and use the euro as their common currency, hit a new record reaching the extremely high and dreary 12.2%. Unemployment in the Eurozone has been rising since late 2011, when the continent started facing the effects of global recession. However, while countries like Germany live in prosperity and a majority of their citizens satisfy their needs, the economies of the South that are at the forefront of debt crisis, such as Portugal, Spain, and Greece face an economic contraction having to deal with strong austerity measures imposed by the European Union (EU), the European Central Bank (ECB), and the IMF. The total number of unemployed across the Eurozone is 19.2 million. Across the EU the figure is 26.7 million. To this number we should

add all those leaving university, or all those looking for a part-time job to add to a full-time one and vice versa. Furthermore, millions of others are not registered as unemployed but search for a paid work to supplement their income. It is crucial also to be stated that even among those who receive enough income; many do not have enough job security to feel safe. Others are working more than they would like but know they have little choice to reduce their hours.

Talking with specific facts, in Spain, unemployment surged the past 56%, and Greece now leads the rich world with an astonishing 62.5% of its youth workforce out of a job. The number of young Spaniards belonging to what has become known as the lost generation is up 2% since June 2013 to 883,000. Even if there were some governmental statements that the worst has passed and that the reforms will boost the working environment by encouraging firms to hire more people, these figures portray that we have a long way for an upturn to come. Even where the youth unemployment rate is lowest, in Germany, unemployment accounts for one young adult in every 13.

Since April 2012, Greek youth unemployment is constantly rising month to month and if it continues like this, it will surpass 70% in early 2014, damaging not only the national economy but also that of the EU, because the great amount of jobless will provoke fiscal, financial and social tensions. People asking for a job and protesting for their rights are able to shake the building of a government of coalition and affect the stability, which the EU leaders strive to establish in the South. The situation will become even worse as the number of immigrants arriving in the continent, and thus searching for a job, is rising. Within Europe, immigration is not contributing to unemployment other than in reducing the rate in the regions, like the UK, from where people are leaving.

However, it still remains unanswered the question on the principal causes of youth unemployment. The main cause is excavated while observing that the demand for labour is now declining even faster because nowadays there are fewer young consumers than in the past. Young Europeans distressed by the continuous rejections and disappointments after numerous job applications and their failure, decide either to give up or work from long distance, or work as interns, or if they are more creative to start their own business in order to add an achievement in their CV. Another important factor is the worsening income inequality, which mitigates the wealth gap. It is true that a slight equalization of the pay distribution would open up the door of employment to many young people currently left out. The proposed measure of pushing youth people into taking more than low-paying jobs and work for low wages establishes a dramatic circle of misery.



Graph extracted by the ILO official website.

What we can easily say is that the situation is unpredictable, and that is the reason why the Head of States of the EU have moved to a serialization of statements and proposed measures on the crisis. In **France**, youth unemployment reaches 26% of the general population, a percentage that becomes even more crucial taking into account that thousands

of youths leave school each year with no qualifications. President Hollande decided to create state-aided jobs for young people, in order to restore hope. Another proposal is the scheme “Jobs for the Future”, which will open up 100,000 job seats this year and another 150,000 the next for uneducated youth people (16-25) coming from rural areas. These jobs will be both in the public and voluntary sector, as well as in transportations and education. Moreover, French companies that offer a job to people younger than 26 years, and meet some other criteria (e.g. have up to 300 employees in total), “win” a portion of financial aid given by the government.

In **Spain**, the government opts for a shift because of the new labour laws passed previously by the Parliament. The new labour reform bill is seen with an optimistic eye, since now it is easier for employers to hire workers by ending a legal divide between temporary and permanent contracts. Additionally, PM Rajoy expressed his belief to allow small companies to defer VAT payments and tap government credit lines in order to create jobs. In **Italy**, apart from motives to stimulate training, apprenticeship, and internship projects, the government has decided to reduce and break taxes for the companies that hire under-30s on a permanent contract. Also, the majority of both national budget and European Union structural funds will be offered to alleviate the badly hit Italian South.

Responding to the crisis, the EU has decided to combat youth unemployment in the continent by offering a huge amount of funds, through the EU budget, to those regions where youth unemployment is more than 25%. Moreover, the European Investing Bank will borrow on the markets in order to help business financially and thus encourage them to hire many youths graduating from school.

Youth unemployment sets a nightmare as far as future productivity and earnings are concerned, since these fields are considered too vulnerable. However, we should keep in mind and be inspired to tackle the problem by the fact that never before a so skillful generation like ours was such unemployment. This is a clue that must concern us, when we try to find a solution for all the jobless youth in Spain (40%) that are college/university educated and remain jobless. Letting the problem to aggravate, we waste the most educated generation of all times, causing damage to the future of our society. People like the youth of nowadays have the adequate potential and the preferred skills to move our globe a step forward; innovative suggestions and strength to confront the barriers are some of their characteristics that we must not be indifferent about. The hope of youth for a better future with economic prosperity and general satisfaction should be restored, since anxiety, depression, feelings of worthlessness and failure are no longer tolerated. Previous generations experienced dictatorships, social upheavals, the Berlin Wall, the rise and fall of Communism; our generation has to fight for its rights and for the establishment of decent working conditions also for the generations to come. Young Europeans under 30 are willing to combat the specter of unemployment and set a fairer system of labour laws and initiatives, which will encompass the globe as a common family of equality, sharing and mutual understanding.



Causes of youth unemployment

The path to find who or what to blame about the high unemployment rates among young people is dark and no lighting can be offered unless we investigate all the possible causes. Accusing only the global recession of 2008, or the Wall Street bankers, or the strict governmental policies is an easy answer. To solve the problem once and for all we should dig and be patient, while promoting solutions. If we were asked to provide you with a brief answer we should focus our attention to the poor education that creates uneducated youths, bad leadership, political instability, laziness, increase in population, lack of information concerning the job warfare, increase in money supply. However, for more details read the following analyzed factors.

Minimum wage: It is acknowledged that in the job market, an important factor in hiring a person is the value of the work to be done as a whole, and not the individual doing it; the job has a more powerful value and determines the existence and the number of employees to be hired. Nowadays, the young generations finds it too difficult to obtain a job position, because after having an amount of diplomas and experience in many fields of expertise during the academic years, the wage asked becomes higher than the one offered in the contracts and also youths ask for permanent, full-time jobs.

Taxes and strict financial regulations imposed on corporations and businesses: If the cost of preserving a company becomes too high, firms take the decision to move their headquarters to other parts of the world, where labours are cheaper. This is called job outsourcing and occurred in many states after the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was signed in 1994. Therefore, the national economy rate suffers from a rise in unemployment rate, as hundreds of people turn

into jobless. Furthermore, since companies decide to “migrate” into less economically developed countries to gain in their seasonal income, the majority of youth people from the Western World remains unemployed.

Reform and licensure laws: Currently, business owners live under the fear of violating the fundamental principles of the labour law, and thus have as few employees as humanly possible. Consequently, it becomes very difficult for new positions for young people to be opened due to lack of motives by the governments.

Technological advancement: In our days technology has evolved that much, affecting also the labour world. Living under the age of technological reproducibility we observe numerous of changes. Humans are replaced by robots and computers that work more hours, produce massively, and provide businesses with very cheap labour (they only have the cost of electricity). For example, a farmer may not be able to find a job in an agricultural industry.

Increase in population: This is a grave problem because we observe an addition to the labour force, and when we are talking about school leavers and university graduates the percentage of unemployed young people becomes even bigger. More and more people remain jobless, without any actual activity, victims to traffickers and exploiters. A characteristic example of the rising population rate going together with unemployment is that of the rural India, an area also facing the problem of migration. We should never forget that India is one of the countries that supply others (e.g. the UK) with probable employees increasing the “brain drain”. However, the new territory turns into a nightmare.

Ellipsis of training: Another crucial cause can be considered the lack of proper skill acquisition and training from young people wishing to

acquire a job position. Also, occupational immobility might cause difficulties in learning and obtaining new knowledge and skills applicable to a new industry.

Cultural factors: Youth unemployment is often at its peak amongst deprived areas where there is pessimism and misery over job prospects. People coming from notorious neighborhoods, broken families, or they are of a different origin and religion, or former drug users suffer from the stigma of racism, totalitarianism, xenophobia, discrimination and thus they are excluded from the working environment.

Underground economy: It is closely attached to the well-known and difficult to tackle black economy. Such jobs may be close to drug dealing or human trafficking or light arms and weapons market. When such fields flourish, companies will never open up their seats to employ more people, since this proves disastrous for the firm’s budget. Corruption truly sets obstacles towards employment.

Finally, there may be causes like people who get fired, or quit their jobs, or they do not prefer to work, either because they will get a low wage, or because they cannot find a satisfactory job position. In such cases we have elevated *natural unemployment*, which occurs even in a healthy economy.

The issue of youth migration due to underemployment

According to statistical figures, 214 million people live and work (or try to find a job) outside their country of origin. The 1/8 (35 million, representing 15% of the total migrant stock) of them is a young migrant between 15-24 years. The most important fact is that the number of international migrants has risen from 31 million (2000) to 35 million (2013). In detail, the rate of youth unemployment in Italy touches

the 39.5% when in Spain youth unemployment reaches the record of 56.1%, a quarter of the 3.5 million under -25s jobless across the Eurozone, following Eurostat recent figures. Only Greece has a higher percentage of young people out of work (62.9%).

Young people have the potential to contribute to inclusive economic and social development, but migrate in search for decent and various work opportunities in order to improve their personal lives, to support their families. It is true that nowadays 4/10 unemployed are youths and according to research 228 million young people (15-24 years) earn less than 2US Dollars per day. These are some of the reasons that lead young people in the dream of escaping abroad looking for a safe have, a labour paradise.

The youth unemployment crisis, strengthened by the economic recession, bridges the gap between the homeland and the outside world in terms of job search. For instance, in Greece there are many cases where young people-most of whom with a Bachelor or a Masters diploma-work for less than 4 euros per hour. However, migration should not be considered as a necessity, and we should keep in mind that when becomes “forced” labour migration can cause precariousness, poor working conditions in a stressful and disrespectful environment, and can entrap young individuals into human trafficking. For example, Spaniards are deserting their country in search of work, with 500,000 leaving in 2012, mostly to Latin America.



Effects of unemployment

- Unemployment reduces the individual’s satisfaction and self-esteem levels as far as vocation and finance are concerned. Therefore, it affects both the well-being of the family but also the mental and psychological health of the jobless person. More precisely, the individual usually suffers from emotional distress and uncertainty for the future, which also influences the rest of the family members. It is probable for parents to become more authoritative and harsher towards their children or lose belief in their children’s potential. Young people might become depressive, resulting into cases of abnormal sexual behavior, suicide, criminality, drug use etc. setting a sick society.
- Loss of health coverage and possibly of any compensation.
- Financial hardship, poor living standards, and debt problems. Financial hardship is seen as a powerful intervening factor in the relationship between unemployment and family conflict/stress. To alleviate the family crisis, income preservation is highly recommended in order to avoid the harassment of youth future perspectives and dreams.
- Fiscal costs. Fall of tax revenues and higher spending on welfare payments for families with members out of work lead to a huge financial loss on the part of the government. Consequently, the budget deficit increases and causes a rise in the taxation.
- Social insecurity and deprivation. Poverty, extreme criminality, and social tensions are attached to the dislocation caused by unemployment. Regions that suffer from persistently long-term

unemployment face also a widening of inequality of income and wealth, as well as a disastrous wealth gap. The United Nations (UN) in 2010 claimed that growing social inequality fueled by global unemployment will increase social unrest and unfairness leading to numerous types of disorder. The situation becomes even worse when we need to deal with youth unemployment, as our efforts to eliminate the possibilities of a social outburst should be effective.

- Migration to other parts of the globe in search of a better future and the consequent brain waste.

All these effects adapt also to the case of young people, leaving no security concerning labour standards.

Proposed action plan

Our efforts should stress attention to a single angle with multimodal parameters. Recognizing that more than 4 million young people are unemployed today and that more than 6 million have given up looking for a job, we should cater for development under the prism of rising economic capacities and opportunities for social inclusion, growth combined with decent work for all, and overcoming the challenge of migration through employment in order to avoid a “scarring” effect on young people, causing great damage to the fabric of our societies. The negative effects of unemployment can be lessened, and the global community can hope for a better and more optimistic future. Social support can mitigate the negative impact of unemployment.

We should acknowledge that youth people need to be at the heart of society, thus, guarantee that their voices are heard. Youth unemployment is a

global problem with local solutions and we must fight to prevent another “lost generation” from arising. Tackling “brain drain” and brain waste as well as inequalities towards women, indigenous people and rural areas should be set on the highest ranking on our agendas.

There are many things that can be done to alleviate the crisis and our action plan should address three important features; competence, care and communication:

- We should fund job training and reemployment schemes that consider the psychological and emotional needs of jobless people. Internships, apprenticeships, short-term job opportunities, distance-learning programs will help young people obtain further experience and be ready to acquire a demanding job position after having experienced the needs of market demand. However, there is the risk of exploitation as a means of cheap labour. These efforts offer to young people credits like certification.
- Young people imagine shaping the world and becoming active agents. In this case, international migration can assist them into acquiring a better job opportunity which can benefit themselves, their families, their communities.
- Care is important as destination countries should ground their admissions’ policies based on market needs and standards. Moreover, they should care about respect, human rights protection, and equal treatment.
- Communication is closely related to the dialogue on how to secure decent work for youth people, and especially for

females guaranteeing the desirable gender sensitivity and equality.

- Investing in youth is synonymous to caring for the future. To be more precise, the ILO asks for governments and social partners to foster pre-employment growth through macro-economic policies, and youth entrepreneurship while ensuring financial sustainability and investing. Youth entrepreneurship will result in self-employment and private business development. For instance, the advancement and promotion of cooperatives, community employment services, and social enterprises in urban areas is more than welcome. Furthermore, public employment and labour intensive programs should be promoted.
- Adding to this, we should focus on industrial policies that can facilitate structural transformation and thus promote sustainable economy, “green” policies, agricultural development, based on investments from the private sector.
- Social partners should get involved into a dialogue to develop a policy increasing the role of NGOs in youth employment and also building confidence towards private funds to alleviate the crisis.
- Finally, we should strengthen school curricula as far as guidance and job advice are concerned, to make them more familiar to the labour market needs and current employment trends.

BLOC POSITIONS

Tackling the global youth unemployment crisis can be considered as one of the main goals of all governments. Seeing the young generation suffering and losing its hope to the future is a dramatic effect of our present times. To solve the crisis, we do not expect the formation of strong and strict blocs that will fight for their political ideals, but we want to see cooperation. However, differences will be spotted on the proposed measures and on the ways to establish them (e.g. emphasis on private sector or to individual’s potential, influence by the EU austerity measures etc.)



Questions to ponder

- On which international Treaties or Agreements, the ILO should base its proposals on the aforementioned topic?
- Which types of unemployment are the most common ones; from what do they derive, and how can be combatted?
- Which are the main causes of youth unemployment?
- Which is the target group including young jobless people?
- How can we cooperate, exchange views and form a common policy on the issue, while suffering from a global recession affecting the structure of our societies?

- What kind of motives can be given to the companies in order to hire more people?
- Which are the most viable and efficient solutions to the crisis?
- Can we focus our efforts to the public sector, or the private investing groups?
- Which is the role of education in the unemployment crisis?

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TOPIC B: *ESTABLISHING "GREEN JOBS"*
IN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING
ECONOMIES.

TOPIC HISTORY

The earliest environmentalism can be found in the 18th century. Here, environmental sensibility was established. That being said, efforts were focused primarily on individual small-scale issues. The extent to which science was able to explain and understand the impact of pollution, over-consumption of raw materials and others was very limited. It would not be until the mid-20th century that the global community would become aware of the tremendous damage that was being done to our earth. As the 19th century progressed, there was a rise in conservation movements, groups campaigning for national parks and sustainable approaches for forestry management. However, no lasting effect was achieved with respect to the development of a norm of responsibility.

It's not until recent history that environmental issues are credibly raised on the political agenda. In the early 70's the first Green parties were founded that would emphasize mainly on attracting voters attention to environmental issues (Global Greens, 2013).

Nowadays we more often see that the entire political spectrum adopted a green policy in the program of the political actor, unrelated to a governing presence of green movements. That means that the topic has been identified and became a policy domain recognized by nearly all states and political actors.

A meaningful internationally response to the *greening* only occurred in 1992 when the world community, led by the United Nations, came up with a global call for responsibility. The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was established.

Figures show that our current usage of the planet is unsustainable. We need to change our practices and our industries drastically in a greener more environmentally friendly way to safeguard jobs. To better understand the transfer to a green economy, we will discuss the history of interrelated environmental topics.

Reducing Consumption of Energy and Raw Materials

If world gross domestic product (GDP) continues to grow by 3 per cent annually as it is predicted, in the year 2030 a GDP of 240 percent of what it was in 2000 will be reached. "Energy consumption is therefore expected to increase by 50 per cent until the year 2020". (ILO, 2008: 5) However, current energy sources are closely linked to climate change. Around 80 per cent of all energy is supplied by fossil fuels, primarily coal, oil and natural gas. When these fuels are burnt CO₂ is released into the atmosphere, ultimately leading to global warming. Three-quarters of all CO₂ emissions are released through fossil fuel combustion. It may then clearly be concluded that consumption of energy and raw materials has to be reduced if any attempt at climate change control is to be taken seriously.

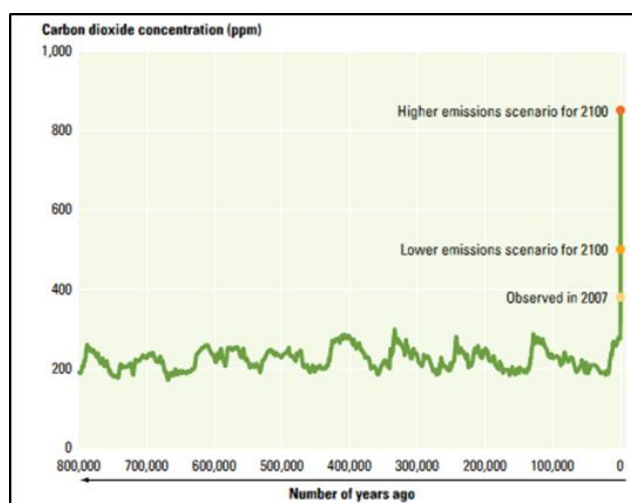


Figure: The drastic rise in CO₂ levels

Source: World Bank Development Report 2010, page 4

Limiting Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change marked the creation of a climate norm, though no binding targets were set. With a ratification number of 195 (near universal membership) a first step was made towards a greener future. On December 11th 1997, the Kyoto Protocol was signed in Kyoto, Japan. It was the first attempt at international greening, and a very unsuccessful one at that. China, Russia and India refused to ratify the protocol, whilst the USA withdrew from it very quickly. Today, the protocol only covers roughly 15% of global greenhouse gas emissions (Ritter, 2012). Thus, it remains more of a symbolic event, rather than an effective one. UN attempts are currently underway to renegotiate and extend the Protocol; however, success has been very limited. In 2005 the EU introduced its emissions trading scheme, whereby companies would be obliged to pay for the damage that they incurred on the environment. Two years later in 2007, the Bali Road Map was drawn up i.e. the decision was made to negotiate a post-Kyoto treaty within 2 years. In the same year the Bush administration created the Major Economies Meetings on Energy Security and Climate Change (MEM), which exists to this day. Next up in the line of conferences was Copenhagen in 2009. The society of states failed to adopt a legally binding treaty and frustration with futile efforts had reached an all-time high. Facing immense pressure by not satisfied people, every major emitter agreed to hold negotiations concerning actions against climate change in 2011 at the Durban Platform. However, the end of negotiation was set for 2015, which means that the 2020 peak of emissions will not be addressed timely.

Unsustainable consumption of energy and raw materials, coupled with excessive greenhouse gas emissions represent an unequalled challenge

to our contemporary international society. Not only is global collective action by state actors and organizations necessary; it is vital that this happens soon before it is too late. There has been a 0.74°C increase in global temperature in the 20th century and at this point there is no end in sight. The primary source of this trend known as global warming is CO₂, the process of globalization has only exacerbated greenhouse gas emission levels. Scientific predictions estimate that the emission levels must peak by 2020 to give a 50% chance of escaping the feared 2°C increase.

Air pollution

Historically air pollution dates back from at least the dark ages. Records are found from King Edward I regulations on burning sea coal. (The History Channel, 2013) Unfortunately his measures had little effect on the air quality. The industrial revolution didn't bring more light into the picture. By the late 18th -19th century large scale use of coal came with a terrible cost of air pollution. The health impacts hereof were disastrous to the rapidly expanding urban areas. One of the more notorious smog disasters happened in 1952 when pollutants from factories and home fireplaces mixed with air condensation ended the life in London for more than 4000 people in just a few days.

Polluted water and preserving fishery

Polluted water, like air, is also not a recent phenomenon. The urbanization and booming population in the dark ages wasn't accompanied with an equal increase in hygienic infrastructure (NOAA Ocean Service Education, 2013). Cholera and typhoid fever are just some of the diseases that broke out because of these unsanitary conditions. Many parts of the world still don't have sufficient access to clean drinkable water.

Thinking out of the box: waste lost in space

Almost 50 years ago the first man-made object to circle around the earth was sent into space. On October 4th 1957, the USSR's Sputnik 1 was launched. This event, together with the USA's moon landing of Apollo 11 on July 20th 1969, has set the milestones in aeronautical history. In those years about 6600 satellites, of which 3600 still in space and 1000 in use, were launched (ESA, 2013). While the first space missions had military objectives, civilian satellites later changed the lives of everyone by more accurate weather forecasts, better telecommunications, positioning, etc. These improvements have come with a high cost in space waste. This waste has become an increasing concern to the operability of space researchers and equipment as well as life on earth. A greening of the aerospace industry becomes more urgent by every satellite that runs out of service. Millions of jobs would go lost if space would become inaccessible directly in the space research industry as well as the connected industries that use satellites.

Agriculture and forestry

Agriculture has been practiced very differently throughout history. Land scarcity and growing efficiency needs forced mankind in some regions to develop tools and production methods to increase agricultural productivity. The different stages of agriculture that civilization went through over the ages can still be seen on various locations on the globe. While some tribes still perform their profession according to the pre-agriculture hunter-gatherer tradition, agriculture has changed into a post-modern industry for parts of the western world. Nowadays we see that agriculture techniques include high tech GPS systems to optimize fertilization and many more.

In earlier days citizens gathered their dead wood near their homes. Timber was harvested as it

was available and forestry had little impact on the environment. The small scale operations allowed for the forests to recover naturally. In the globalized world timber has become a commodity like any other that is traded worldwide and short term profit prevails too often over the long term sustainability of the forestry business that might destroy itself if it doesn't work sufficiently on rehabilitation.

Energy and mining

While wood is nowadays mostly used for furniture, housing etc., it used to be one of the primary energy sources. A fire maintained by wood could serve as a light in the darkness, heating during colder seasons and to prepare meals. Later came the introduction of oil, natural oils as well as fossil oil, electricity, gas, waterpower, nuclear power, bio-fuels. These modern energy resources provide better opportunities to more efficiently store and use energy to meet different functions that now go far beyond creating light or preparing meals. The scarcity of some energy resources however poses a threat to the environment where they are found. Mining operations for oil and other non-renewable energy resources aren't as clean anymore as scrambling deadwood. Nowadays energy companies hunt for energy resources with non-waterproof techniques that have a great potential to harm the ecosystem in vulnerable environments in case of an accidental equipment failure.

DISCUSSION OF THE PROBLEM

The Effect of Climate Change and air pollution on the World Economy and Employment

With 5-6°C warming - which is certainly a possibility for the next century - existing models estimate an average 5-10% loss in global GDP, with poor countries suffering costs higher than

10% of GDP. (Stern, 2007: ix) Other consequences include melting of glaciers which will initially increase flood risk and then strongly reduce water supplies, declining crop yields which may leave millions without the ability to produce or purchase sufficient food, an increase in worldwide deaths from malnutrition, heat stress and vector-borne diseases, displacement of over 200 million people due to rising sea levels and a potential extinction of 40% of species.

The effects from greenhouse gas emissions on global warming are not the only air pollution concern. Global warming is the most alarming but not only way air pollution threatens the continued existence of our planet as we know it. Particulate contamination, increased UV radiation, acid rain are just few of the ways of air pollution that also has effects on the environment outside the widely debated greenhouse gas emissions.

Water pollution

Polluted air can create acid rain that in turn can make the ph-value of the ocean drop. Organisms that can't adapt sufficiently to the rapid changing environment can be extinguished. Fish, birds and wildlife depend on constant clean water in their habitat to live properly and guarantee the survival of the entire ecosystem. Therefore not only industrial water usage output in natural streams should be closely monitored but also the air pollution from manufacturing industries.

Providing those industries with so-called green energy originating from waterpower can have a negative impact on the ecosystems in itself too. While it is well intended, the dams that are constructed for the waterpower installation create reservoirs that disrupt the ruling ecosystem of the river.

Next to that a major problem to the waters of the world is solid waste. From metal cans or tires in rivers to immense trash islands of solid waste in the oceans. While once was thought that the oceans were big enough to make any waste disappear, this is obviously found not to be true. Illegal discharges from cruise ships are the major visible contributors to those trash islands. Throughout the last half of the 20th century along with a global average increase in wealth fare, sectors such as tourism boomed, including cruise tourism. According to the United States Government Accounting Office current numbers run over 200 cruise ships transporting nearly 10 million passengers yearly. The waste produced on these ships poses threats to safeguard the water quality as well as a

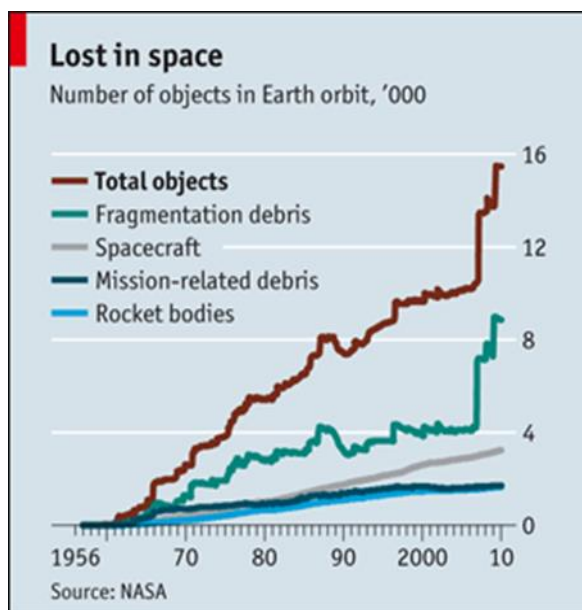


balanced marine environment.

Ocean waste streams from cruise ships can be separated in 3 categories. Firstly, black water that is originated by the sewage system and secondly gray water which is waste water from showers and sinks water. This water is previously mostly used for personal hygiene, general hygiene as well as preparing meals and others. The final waste stream is the solid waste that we would also find on land such as plastic, metal etc.

Space waste: a problem out of this world

As of September 2012 an estimated 23,000 particles between 5 and 10 cm in Low Earth Orbit (LEO) and 30 to 100cm in geostationary altitudes (GEO) are floating in space (ESA, 2013). These objects called space debris are man-made objects used for many purposes including the fields of earth observation, meteorology, climate research, telecommunication, navigation, human space missions and national defense. Until a few years ago this waste was not considered a problem. Space debris was perceived irrelevant as objects would burn in the atmosphere as they deviated from their original orbit and arrived to close by the earth. Experiences from recent years however taught us that the side effects of the litter in space were underrated.

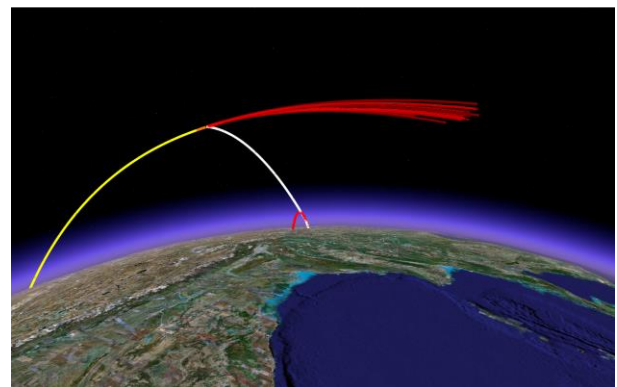


The consequences of an uncontrolled large amount of space debris are twofold. Firstly, new missions in space may be hindered as waste in space may collide with operational equipment. If the orbits of two space objects in space cross each other, collision may occur in case both objects are at that cross point simultaneously. This may include space debris and space ships for manned space missions as well as

operational satellites. On February 10th 2009, such collision occurred between two operational satellites at 776 km altitude above Siberia (ESA, 2013). Hereby both Iridium 33 (American privately owned communication satellite) and Kosmos-2251 (Russian military satellite) were destroyed. This incident alone generated more than 2200 tractable fragments that pose a threat for future collisions. Since the objects orbit at high speeds, 11.7km/second in the example, even a minor collision can cause significant damage and it can therefore severely limit or destroy the colliding objects rendering the operational equipment useless.

Secondly, large space debris, especially with a high melting temperature, are not guaranteed to burn up in the atmosphere entirely. Some reports have been made of people being hit by man-made space debris (ESA, 2013). Also, large space objects that contain fuel tanks or toxic material may end up in the oceans or in vulnerable environments on land.

Furthermore, there are debates on the usage of anti-satellite weapons (ASAT), currently developed by the United States, Russia and China. These weapons have the capability to lock and dysfunctional. The impact of these interceptions is devastating for the debris population. When the Chinese Feng-Yun 1C intercepted its targeted satellite, this collision alone increased the space debris by 25% (ESA, 2013).



It is uncertain how much extra space debris we may expect in the future. Possibilities to diminish future debris depend on how well techniques for successful re-entry to earth further develop. This would allow us to steer space ships after service safely back to specifically designed zones on earth but further research is needed, especially in terms of safety and cost-efficiency. This also highly depends to what extent we may expect other states to undertake future endeavors in space. Either launching their own objects for their own space programs independently or in partial cooperation with existing space agencies.

Projects in space are not only very polluting and consume a high amount of natural resources; they also require a high dedication to invest large sums into the projects. Because of the high cost we have seen that the United States has reduced and refocused its mission goals for its future years in space. The price tag for research as well as the actual space equipment may be a threshold that will withhold other states from setting up a space program. Additionally the advantages of having an independent space program instead of free riding on the research outcomes by the existing On the other hand, states may feel need to profile their countries position in the world or military secure their countries integrity by having a space program.

If there is no action undertaken to reduce the waste produced, the space debris will infinitely multiply as the so-called Kessler syndrome will kick in (The Economist, 2010). The Kessler effect refers to the effect of objects colliding with other objects which then split up resulting in more objects in space. Since there will be more objects, collisions will become more likely and even more objects will be created eventually making all human forms of space usage (meteorology, location, scientific research) impossible.

The impact of globalized trade on ecosystems in the fields agriculture, forestry and energy

Globalization and the liberalizations in international trade have brought about increased efficiency. Relocation of production also brought a significant environmental cost. While increased transport costs may seem low, the real total costs including the harm brought to the environment is often not taken into account. Additionally jobs are sometimes relocated to regions with less strict regulation and not always relocated to the actual most efficient region under equal regulation. The ILO has a role to ensure all countries can fairly compete against each other. In the long term unequal environmental regulations or absence of any regulation may threaten the sustainability of the industries jobs itself and the wider environment, especially if the economic activities are executed in sensitive ecosystems.

Firstly since agriculture is currently in different stages across the world, the burden on the environment is also differentiated. We will illustrate with some examples the necessity of a general greening of the agricultural sector in various aspects to guarantee job seats and decent labor.

Slash and burn is the technique to fertilize the soil by burning the leftovers from last year's crops. It is a relatively clean fertilization method as long as the flames don't spread out and causes wildfires which are likely to happen in dry climates. This technique is in strong contrast to burning woodlands to turn it into agricultural land. The land gained from these areas is only temporarily fertile and will need to be replaced by other land unless it is fertilized in a sustainable manner. The constant deforestation of dense woods for temporary agricultural land is very destructive for the ecosystems. The habitat in a forest environment is obviously very

different from a deforested ecosystem with agriculture.

The industrialized capital intensive agriculture pollutes its own soil to increase short term revenue. The usage of pesticides and excessively high concentrations of fertilization, artificial or natural by covering the fields with too much manure is the main cause of that soil pollution. This results in ground layers containing too much nitrate and chemicals that disturb or extinguish the ecosystem.

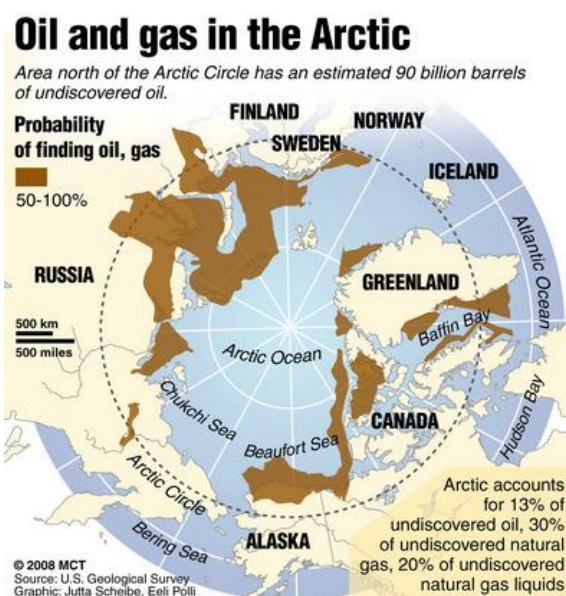
At the same time in some countries airplanes are used to spread pesticides over the fields. These planes not only needlessly generate greenhouse gas emissions but also spread their pesticides on the side of the fields outside the places where crops are grown directly harming the ecosystem. Even when aimed at the right spot, wind may blow or rain may wash away the chemicals from the crop fields into the ecosystems neighboring the crop fields. These streams of particles may lead to rivers in turn also damaging the ecosystem further downstream.

Additionally labour conditions for harvesters should be safeguarded as they could be working in unsafe health conditions when chemicals are used in production. Mainly due to the influence of labor unions and food regulations, most countries where modern agriculture techniques are used. These regulations limit the consequences of this industrialized agriculture on the environment. When new countries adopt these modern industrialized techniques, these countries should also adapt these regulations to contribute their share to a decent sustainable agricultural tradition.

Unsustainable practices in forestry can lead to severe job losses on large scale. Sustainable management of the world forestry is the key to safeguarding future forestry jobs, providing renewable wooden material to other sectors and protecting the environment. The Food and

Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations covers the protection of forests worldwide but has been unable to stop the overconsumption of precious wood reserves. This has already significantly damaged ecosystems that live exclusively in the unique forest environments that were cut for consumption purposes without sufficient replenishment of new trees to repopulate the forest. If old dense forests that are considered to be the lungs of the earth are cut for consumption, this has an impact far beyond the forestry industry alone.

Not all consumers in the world are aware of their own wood consumption as well as the origin of their purchases and the effects on the environment that it carries with it. Several initiatives, most notably by the European Union, have been launched to the illegal logging industry. However no effective worldwide measures have passed yet to prosecute firms guilty to these practices and protect the fair jobs in forestry.



Energy and resource mining, a dangerous business

Energy giants are operating worldwide without a clear legislative framework to whom they are

accountable in case of natural disasters. Knowledge on how to act to quickly to counter the spread of a natural disaster is not structurally shared and spread. The BP oil spill in 2010 and the lengthy process to close the leak is a clear example hereof. Oil sands development, fracking techniques for the production of shale gas, earthquakes after gas mining are all excellent topics for discussion about their impact on the ecosystem of the region. For this background guide we will only shortly discuss the Arctic because of the many resources it houses and its especially unique and so far preserved, but endangered, ecosystem.



The High Arctic is a treasure of natural resources; the Arctic Shelf holds the largest unexplored amounts of the world's natural resources reserves. The USGS estimated that around 22% of the world's oil and natural gas could be found on the Arctic. Other estimates give data for oil and natural gas separately indicating that the Arctic would hold around 13% of the world's undiscovered oil and 15% to 30% in reserves of the world's undiscovered

gas (Bardsley, 2011). Additionally fishing opportunities are abundant. The dangers created by industrial activity on the arctic both for the labor force as well as the environment can hardly be overseen. The unique ecosystem that can only be present in the conditions set in the

Arctic Waters will suffer from the grasp for resources. Resource mining, if done at all, should consistently be aware of the unique Arctic ecosystem and its value to the world. For labourers the lack of close-by communities and the habits of long shifts on off-shore sites doesn't live up to the standards that the ILO sets for decent work.

In the following, this guide will present and analyze the major factors that have been decisive in preventing a comprehensive international environmental regime from forming and tackling the issues at hand.

Considerations of Financial Crisis

More often than ever before have states put climate concerns on the back burner of their agenda. The current financial crisis has hit the world's economy hard and the effects have been widespread. However, "on average, a financial crisis lasts less than two years and results in a 3 percent loss in gross domestic product (GDP) that is later offset by more than 20 percent growth over eight years of recovery and prosperity". (World Bank Development Report 2010, 3) Every economics student learns about the cyclical nature of the markets; crises come and crises go. Not so with the growing threat of climate change though. The effects of minimal rises in temperature, brought about by increases in greenhouse gas concentrations, will haunt earth for decades, if not millennia, to come. The complexity of the climate system means that a lack of sufficient mitigation today cannot be easily made up for with accelerated mitigation in the future. Impacts became greater and mitigation options become more costly as economies become reliant on high-carbon infrastructures. Thus it is of necessity to convince policy-makers, firms and individuals to press for greater action today, despite short-term financial concerns.

The “North/South Divide”

The discussion about reducing emissions and conserving energy has long turned into a confrontation between the global north and south. “On average, carbon emissions per capita in the developed world are about five times those in developing countries. In 2006, the US per capita emission of tonnes of CO₂ equivalent was 15.2; India had 1.1”. (Gosh, 2009) There is a belief that the developed nations must bear the greatest responsibility for mitigation. Anything else is perceived as unfair and neo-imperialist.

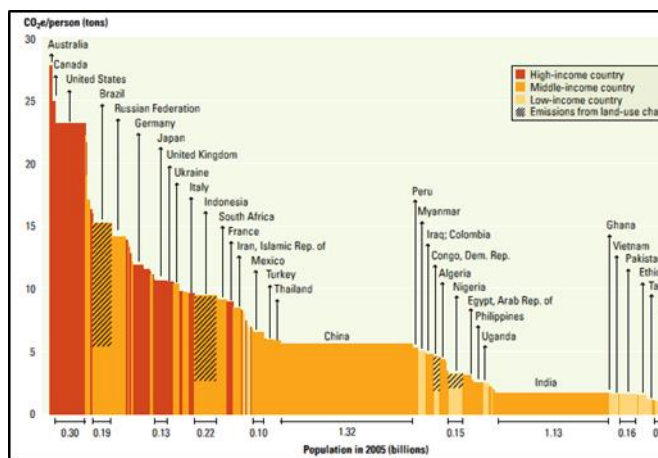


Figure: Individual's emissions in High-Income vs. Low-Income Countries

Source: World Bank Development Report 2010, page 39

However, the verdict is not that easy. In the last thirty years, per capita carbon emissions declined slightly in developed countries, while they doubled in developing countries taken as a group, and nearly tripled in China. Furthermore, the people of the developing countries have the greatest interest in stopping these developments, seeing that they are already the worst affected by climate changes. The problem is that the development project, so ensuring that the developing countries have access to all the basic necessities (i.e. permanent housing, electrification, access to clean water, sanitation and sufficient food), will necessarily require

more natural resources and more raw materials and therefore result in greater carbon emissions.

It is necessary to deal with this problem in a twofold manner. Firstly, more imaginative responses are required. GDP growth should not necessarily be a goal in itself. It has been shown that it does not always create more life satisfaction. Secondly, in the developing world, particularly in countries like India where carbon emissions are fairly low still, “there is now an opportunity to reorient growth in cleaner and greener directions: not just by changing energy sources at the margin, but also by emphasizing cleaner and more public rather than private-based transport systems, better urban and regional planning and protecting and nurturing water and other natural resources”. (Gosh, 2009). A fundamental change in the aspirations of these countries is required. Advertisements however will continue to create fake desires, confining the efforts to promote sustainability.

The Free Rider Problem

Quantitative game theory has developed a frequently used game to demonstrate why individuals, or in this case states, fail to cooperate even if it appears as the best move in their interest. This game is called “**prisoner's dilemma**”. In it, two members of a criminal gang are arrested and imprisoned. Each prisoner is confined with no means of speaking to or exchanging messages with the other. The police admit that they do not have sufficient evidence to convict both criminals immediately; they need to trust the prisoner's testimonies. At this point the police offer a bargain:

- If A and B both confess the crime, each of them serves 2 years in prison
- If A confesses but B denies the crime, A will be set free whereas B will serve 3 years in prison (and vice versa)

- If A and B both deny the crime, both of them will only serve 1 year in prison

Because betraying your partner always rewards more than cooperating, any purely self-interested rational criminal would betray the other. The only possible outcome then is for both to betray each other. The interesting part is that this decision makes both prisoner's come out worse than if they had cooperated. Climate change negotiations are not unlike this situation; in fact they follow the same mechanics.

Instead of prisoners we have two states- USA and China for example. Both know that long-term climate change will be devastating and it is necessary to clean up our production and consumption and cut back on emissions that contribute to global warming. But they also know that they cannot cut emission sufficiently acting alone. If both cut emission everyone will be better off. But if only the USA cleans up their capital expense will make manufactured goods more costly and render them less competitive. China will gain an unfair competitive advantage. Vice versa, if only the Chinese clean-up they will be the ones suffering from a reduction in competitiveness. Thus, both states, afraid that only they will be combating climate change, will opt for doing nothing.

Furthermore there is an understanding that “the best individual outcome for any country would be for them to defect (continue to pollute) while other nations cooperate (reduce their emissions)”. (Abrams, 2013) This is referred to as the **free-rider problem**. Since the environment does not correspond to state boundaries, it is impossible for a state to clean up its own territory without having everyone else benefit from such action as well. All in all, it should then become clear that the free rider problem and prisoner's dilemma are fundamental in explaining why COP-3 in Kyoto

in 1997 and COP-15 in Copenhagen in 2009, despite high hopes and near universal recognition that something had to be done, failed to address the problems and made little progress.



Building Blocks approach vs. Regime Complex; Mitigation vs. Adaptation

The Building Blocks approach versus Regime Complex debate is symbolic for the uncertainty that surrounds the greening of international society. There is uncertainty as to how heavily human actions have contributed to climate change, how severe the effects will be on employment, industry and weather patterns, and what methods should be employed to reduce these effects.

Robert Keohane, a notable International Relations scholar, introduced the concept of a “regime complex for climate change”. This idea suggests that governments have struggled to craft a strong regulatory system for managing climate change and instead “their efforts have produced a varied array of narrowly-focused regulatory regimes”. (Keohane, 2011: 7) Regimes are located in-between comprehensive international regulatory bodies and highly fragmented individual arrangements. According to this line of thought, it has become evident that “more focused and decentralized activities” are more effective than “massive global summits, organized around the goal of a single treaty”. (Keohane, 2011: 7) Regime complexes

offer greater political realism, flexibility and adaptability.

The second approach, instituted by a Robert Falkner led group of academics, is referred to as the “building blocks approach”. This approach believes that while the push for a “global deal” is admirable and must not be discarded, a second best scenario is required. It includes creating a climate regime in an incremental fashion based on partial agreements and government mechanisms. The “global deal strategy has been successful in driving the international process forward and creating political momentum behind global climate protection”, however a simultaneous focus on disaggregating negotiations into proper multi-task approaches is necessary. (Falkner, 2010: 260) This would “enable parties to secure low-hanging fruits and thereby avoid early and ambitious action in some areas to be held hostage to failure to resolve other areas of contention”. (Falkner, 2010: 260)

While this has provided more than enough room for debate among the climate factions, a second debate exists- mitigation vs. adaptation. Mitigation believes that people can reverse climate change. It also implies that human activity is at least in part responsible for global warming. Adaptation efforts aim instead to help humanity thrive under the future real conditions of climate change. These include relocating settlements to areas that are not projected to become arid land or under water. In summary, “mitigation reduces the likelihood and magnitude of climate-related hazards and their resultant impacts; adaptation reduces the consequences of these impacts.” (Jones, 2006: 5)

Slow Norm Entrepreneurship

It is nearly impossible to make such fundamental changes to the market economy and everyday life if society does not feel the need to do so. In constructivist International

Relations accounts this is often referred to as “norms” and “norm entrepreneurship”. Only if a climate change mitigation norm has been widely established and accepted will action be a viable option. It may be argued that the emergence of the ‘environmental responsibility’ norm shows that a normative greening of international society has taken place. It seems fairly obvious to most that today’s ecosystems and species are under serious threat. However, this is only an understanding which developed in the last decades. Today, most humans have come to agree that there is a need to take greater care of their environment. This norm entrepreneurship was facilitated by the fact that concern for nature conservation turned from a “predominantly elite and scientific concern” into a “mass-based movement”, environmental agenda was broadened from wildlife conservation to the survival of the planet and there was a redefinition of environmental concerns as inherently global issues. (Falkner, 2012: 503) Furthermore, normative changes came about as a result of the UN Earth Summit held in Stockholm in 1972. Here, “Principle 21”, combining sovereignty over national resources with state responsibility for external pollution, was created, followed by “Agenda 21” which outlined “best practice” guidelines. The newly established norm is also “essential to understanding why a majority of states have ratified the UNFCCC and the Protocol.” (Eckersley, 2010: 272) In addition, ‘environmental responsibility’ had the most profound impact in the form of an ‘international environmental citizenship’ norm, which obliges states to participate in multilateral environmental policy-making. As a result of the normative transformation, the Group of Eight Club (G8) has included a statement on climate change in every one of its meetings of the last 6 years. (Keohane, 2011: 10) However, these norms are only in the emerging stages. They have to compete with other, established,

institutions (see section on political obstacles). It is necessary to increase awareness of the issues and convince the vast majority of populations that these issues will have a snowball effect if not addressed comprehensively.



Political Obstacles

The greening of the international society and the economy has been hindered significantly by competition with three more established pillars of contemporary society: sovereignty, international law and the market economy

Sovereignty

Sovereignty is a buzzword whenever it comes to understanding the behavior of states. Sovereignty is defined as having independent political authority over a bounded territory. However, state boundaries are not representative of ecosystem's boundaries. Thus, it appears that any concerted global action will likely infringe upon the sovereignty of nations. As long as nations claim sovereign control over a defined territory, collective action will be difficult. (Litfin, 1998: 1-27) In reality though, the 1972 Stockholm conference actually reaffirmed the importance of sovereignty in combatting climate change. What seems like a marginalization of sovereignty then rather constitutes "a change in [the terms] meaning and significance as part of the social

international structure". (Falkner, 2012: 517) Potentially ungrounded, yet existing fears by states of losing control over their territory are thus holding back rapid 'greening'.

International Law

International environmental law remains closely connected to the state as a centre of origin as well. The Westphalian sovereignty focus on territorial boundaries still constricts international environmental law. Environmental jurisdiction continues to rely on voluntary submission by states. Very few treaty disputes have been resolved through law dispute settlement procedures. (Romano, 2007: 1042) In 1993 a court was created to deal with environmental disputes between states: the International Court of Justice's Chamber for Environmental Matters. However, in its "13 years of existence no State ever requested that a case be dealt with by it". (ICJ, 2013) The normative shift that environmentalism has initiated has produced legal norms such as harm prevention and the precautionary principle but again these remain either ineffectual or highly contested and in any ways non-binding. 'Environmental responsibility' has weakened the foundations of the traditional international legal system, but its inability to transform jurisdiction remains expressive.

The Market Economy

The third societal pillar that environmental responsibility has to compete with is the market institution where it evidently falls short of acceptance. Countries are most concerned about their economic well-being and calculations about economic growth predominate the government agenda. Combatting adverse climate change, however, is costly and reduces the GDP of nations. Thus, with short-term minded politicians seeking to leave a good legacy in their limited time in office, it becomes undesirable to incur high costs when climate change may only

start to have a direct negative effect after your term in office or even outside of your lifetime. Nonetheless, greening has not only been hindered by markets, they also hold the prime responsibility for destroying the environment in the first place. Negative externalities of malfunctioning markets, specifically “greenhouse-gas emissions, associated with economic activities including energy, industry, transport, and land use” account for some of the worst ecological destruction. (Stern, 2007: 24) There has been some progress, most visible in the efforts by the World Bank to establish an environmental unit (sponsorship of Prototype Carbon Fund) (Keohane, 2011: 11), and the World Trade Organization to promote sustainable development, however as long as the GHG emissions continue rising by “two parts per million each year” it is clear that greening remains the weaker institution. (BBC, 2012) Only if, to take a political economist’s view, there are radical economic changes, e.g. the de-carbonization of the global economy, will greening turn out a success.

Overall, there has been a limited reconfiguration of the interaction between sovereignty and environment, expansion of scope of international law and an inclusion of sustainability concerns into economic thinking and state practice, business, and international organizations; however these changes have been insufficient to bring about consistent universal mitigation efforts.

THE FUTURE

It is of utmost urgency that changes are made to our economies and societies in order to diminish or halt the adverse damages that are being done to the environment and thus every other aspect of life. Everything must be done to succeed in the shift to a green economy, not least because

this can “yield significant gains for workers, the environment and the economy more broadly” (ILO, 2012: 163). For example, studies indicate that net job gains of 0.5-2 per cent could be achieved, representing 15-60 million additional global jobs. However, the way in which these changes are instigated will be decisive in determining the overall benefit that our planet can derive. “Market-based approaches like environmental taxes and emission trading systems must be complemented by regulations, public investment and support of research and development”. (ILO, 2012: 163) Furthermore, the spreading and implementation of sustainable production processes for firms will be required. Also, it is necessary that the revenues that are created by a greener environment are re-invested into employment, i.e. improving labor market information, education, the facilitation of worker transitions, etc.

The demand for energy and resources will vastly continue as the world population increases and more people are raised out of poverty. There has been some reason to believe that the international society of states may eventually come to terms with mitigation and greening efforts. For example, the Major Economics Forum (MEF), representing the 17 largest economies, set up a Global Partnership in 2009. It aims to promote low-carbon technologies and develop other means of reducing emissions-acknowledging climate change to be ‘one of the greatest challenges of our time’. There are ‘technology action plans’ that focus on 80% of global Carbon dioxide created by energy production. Furthermore, US – China rivalry could lead to cooperation: in January 2011 President Obama and President Hu agreed to enhance cooperation on climate change policy, renewable technology and technological transfer. Last but not least, the G20 leaders have pledged to ‘spare no effort to reach a balanced and successful outcome’; however, plans contained little detail.

On the other hand as the Arctic melts away, states that can claim resources there might welcome global warming or at least feel less need for greening efforts. Progress in tackling climate change will require serious attempts to allay the fears surrounding the future for jobs, for poverty reduction and for development. Decent, green jobs are the exact positive link that needs to be established between climate change and development. These jobs are able to “contribute to sustainable economic growth and life people out of poverty.” (ILO, 2007: 9) Decent jobs with high productivity but also with high eco-efficiency and low emissions hold the promise to provide desirable conditions and incomes, allow for growth and help protect our environment.

An essential foundation for climate-change policy is the establishment of a carbon price, through tax, trading or regulation. Putting an appropriate price on carbon means that people are faced with the full social cost of their actions. This will in turn lead individuals and businesses to switch away from high-carbon goods and services, and invest in low-carbon alternatives.

Globalization and the liberalizations in international trade have brought about increased efficiency and these phenomena will be a driving force behind further development in the future. Relocation of production must be ensured to also bring environmental gains. While increased transport costs may seem low, the real total costs including the harm brought to the environment is often not taken into account. Additionally jobs are sometimes relocated to regions with less strict regulation instead of the actual most efficient region under equal regulation. The ILO has a role to ensure all countries can fairly compete against each other by setting equal environmental norms. In the long term this will safeguard jobs, especially if

the economic activities are executed in sensitive ecosystems.

POINTS RESOLUTIONS SHOULD ADDRESS

- Ways in which greater confidence and trust can be established between the large greenhouse gas emitters and air polluters (US, China, Russia, India, EU);
- The possibility of increasing awareness of the adverse consequences that excessive greenhouse gas emissions, air pollution and over-consumption of raw materials will have on weather, employment, migration patterns and state relations;
- The creation of a satisfactory, and if possible, legally binding international climate treaty that turns out to be more effective than past greening attempts;
- The merging of climate concerns and the norm of “environmental responsibility” with more established pillars of international society, including notions of sovereignty, the market and international law;
- The discovery of ways in which responsibilities for climate damage by states can be fairly evaluated, as to not increase the “north/south divide” and improve the system of “common but differentiated responsibilities”;
- Plans to allay the fears surrounding the future for jobs, for poverty reduction and for development;

- The need to fund and focus on more sustainable sources of energy (wind, water, etc.) that do not emit greenhouse gases;
- A decision as to whether bottom-up (building-blocks) or top-down approaches (international regime) approaches are more successful in halting climate change;
- The consideration of which method to focus on in the near future: adaptation or mitigation efforts;
- The introduction of an efficient and fair carbon pricing system, in which externalities are taxed and individuals have to bear the full social cost of their actions;
- agreement on the conditions for mining operations in the arctic and the resource claims of the shelves;
- Strategy to inform the global consumer in a unified manner of the origin of its purchases from forestry products;
- Plan to control and recover the damage caused to the ecosystem when transforming wasteland, forests into agriculture land;
- Agreement on systemic aid for agriculture in the Third World including exchange of green agriculture techniques and materials;
- Efforts for increased cooperation for space projects and the sharing of launch missiles, regulation on the re-entry of space ships and on anti-satellite tests and the usage of anti-satellite weapons (ASAT);
- Recommendations on how to better control and regulate the waste of ships, both passenger and transport;

- Plans to control air pollution outside greenhouse gas emissions to limit the effects of particulate contamination, increased UV radiation, acid rain.

BLOC POSITIONS

The European Union:

The member states of the European Union are generally greatly in favor of a greening of the economy. They keep promising support and have set out to be a role-model for other states around the world. The most progressive EU action was the launching of the emissions trading scheme in 2005. France and in particular Germany have invested much money into the development of renewable energy sources, including but not limited to solar and wind power. Germany is currently enacting its “*Energiewende*” (energy transition), however the continuously rising prices of energy have yielded much dissatisfaction. Nonetheless, “in Germany there are already 1.6 Million green jobs, more than in the country’s large auto industry.” (ILO, 2008: 9) More sustainable practices are being explored; however the EU financial crisis meant that the focus has shifted away from environmental matters.

The United States of America:

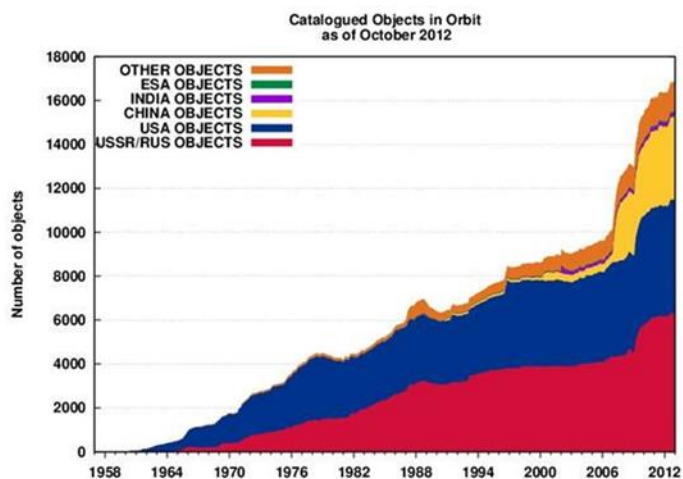
The United States has more readily than ever before challenged the foundations of multilateral environmental policy making and has withheld support for international environmental regimes on several occasions. Whether the U.S. pursues aggressive environmental objectives or seeks to block regime creation at the international level, it will do so in response to domestic imperatives and in reflection of the underlying interest coalitions driving environmental diplomacy. The US prioritizes its sovereignty, and has rejected anything that has the potential of limiting its

unilateral control. Even when the United States seems to realize its role in the current amounts of waste produced on the globe, the United States points their judging finger at the growing consumption in the rising economies and their share in the increase of the global waste produced.

The People’s Republic of China:

China’s views on climate change are inextricably tied to the country’s pressing need for continued economic development. While China was able to boast with breathtaking, double digit annual growth figures in the past, much of the country still remains desperately poor. Notably coal, the key “dirty” energy, is responsible for fueling China’s economic development.” China leads the world in coal production and consumption and relies on coal for approximately 70 per cent of its energy. As a result, China emits an enormous amount of carbon dioxide and in 2007 it overtook the US as the largest carbon emitter of the world.” (Ma, 2010). The country’s electricity demand is likely to increase by 85 per cent by 2020 and China continues to fiercely defend its right to economic development. Furthermore, it reminds everyone that the industrialized world has a “historic responsibility” to take the lead in cutting emissions. Having a much lower per capita emission of carbon dioxide than countries in the industrialized world, it ignores any calls to agree to legally binding emissions reduction targets. Nonetheless there has been some progress. In June 2007, the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) issued “China’s National Climate Change Program”, the country’s first global warming policy initiative. Here, the government outlined multiple measures (laws, economy, administration and technology) that aim to reduce GHG emissions and prepare the country for both mitigation and adaptation. In the following year, the government released a white paper on climate

change, which summarizes China's ongoing effort to combat climate change, as well as clarifies China's position in international climate negotiations.



Developing Countries (Brazil, India, etc.):

Many of the rapidly developing countries realize and accept the need for a greening of the economy, however insist that the vast majority of current problems have been caused by centuries of European and American economic activities. They believe that they should not be forced to take responsibility for something they have not caused. They see their potential economic growth limited by environmental regulations. They proclaim therefore that they should fully develop first without restrictive measures like the West did and then later on green its industries when it has the financial capability to do so. There is room for cooperation; however they refuse to take action if they must share equal responsibility, also if some countries abstain.

For the space debris, the traditional bloc positions are the United States and Russia that both participated in the initial space race. Additionally there is China, India, ESA and the rest of the world. The figure (catalogued objects in orbit) clearly shows that the USA and Russia are responsible for the majority of the space debris. Therefore those countries are mostly

held accountable for the waste that is orbiting around the earth. Additionally the Chinese anti-satellite test makes China definitely also guilty of creating space debris.

ESA and India are the only other active entities in space. As smaller contributors to the space debris their expensive operational equipment is just as likely as those of other states to hit the orbiting waste.

The rest of the world is mostly concerned about the effects of large pieces landing on their soil and polluting the soil, harming their citizens or their environment. Preferences for the rest of the world then also lies mostly in controlling the landing spots of returning space debris as well as limiting the overall total amount of space debris produced.

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